

First Quarter Check-In

New Orleans Fire Department (NOFD)

City of New Orleans

August 15, 2018



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I. Residents Experiencing Loss In Fire (RELIF Report)

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Status Quo

- Previously the NOFD only collected information for a single person (head-of-household or manager) for each structure fire.
- The purpose was only to ensure the NOFD had information available to communicate with affected residents if necessary for investigation or to collect further information.



I. Residents Experiencing Loss In Fire (RELIF Report)

Scope

- Gather detailed information for every occupant at structure fires and report that information to the newly created Office of Youth and Families.
- This is done to ensure that residents adversely affected by fire receive all available assistance.
- Create a new NOFD policy and procedure that requires the collection of the data necessary to create the RELIF Report
- Create a procedure to send the RELIF Report to the Office of Youth and Families.



I. Residents Experiencing Loss In Fire (RELIF Report)

Improvement/Why It Matters

- This project will allow residents adversely affected by fire to be connected to available services that provide relief. Previously, there was not a comprehensive way to ensure that victims were connected to vital assistance.



II. "Install Dat" Smoke Alarm Project

II. Install Dat Smoke Alarm Project

Status Quo

- The NOFD has given away or installed smoke alarms for many years, but was not aggressive in this endeavor prior to the five tragic fire fatalities that occurred in Broadmoor in 2014.



II. Install Dat Smoke Alarm Project

Scope

- Since 2014 the NOFD has made a commitment to ensure that every residential structure has a working smoke alarm installed.
- This is accomplished by:
 - Canvassing every neighborhood, knocking on doors and engaging the residents about the necessity of having a working smoke alarm.
 - Responding to requests for smoke alarms through the CNO Website.



II. Install Dat Smoke Alarm Project Improvement/Why It Matters

- Smoke alarms do not prevent fires, but they do give early warning to the occupants so they can safely escape.
- SMOKE ALARMS SAVE LIVES.
- The NOFD has installed 521 smoke alarms since May 7, 2018 at no cost to the residents.



III. Commercial Occupancy Inspection Program

III. Commercial Occupancy Inspection Program

Status Quo

- Prior to 2013 the NOFD only had a handful of Fire Prevention Inspectors trained to conduct inspections of the approximately 7,000 Commercial Occupancies in the city.
- The department was unable to meet the demand.



III. Commercial Occupancy Inspection Program Scope

- Every NOFD Company Officer was trained and certified as a Fire Inspector, allowing them to conduct code inspections of commercial and industrial structures while also familiarizing themselves with the layout and unique features of the structures.
- The NOFD trained and certified all Captains (approximately 157) to be Fire Prevention Inspectors.
- Each Commercial Occupancy in the city was assigned to a specific captain for accountability.
- All Commercial Occupancies must be inspected each year by a certified Fire Prevention Inspector.



III. Commercial Occupancy Inspection Program Improvement/Why It Matters

- Anyone who enters a Commercial Occupancy should have the expectation that the structure is safe. A yearly Fire Prevention Inspection by trained individuals ensures that Fire Codes are being adhered to and the public is safe.
- The inspection may prevent fires by ensuring that the building owner/occupant corrects any Fire Code violations that could have caused a fire.
- Since May 7, 2018 the NOFD has inspected 1124 Commercial Occupancies.
- This program has allowed the NOFD to conduct fire code inspections of almost every commercial and industrial structure in the city on an annual basis. This improves the safety of the structures city residents and visitors frequent on a daily basis and allows firefighters to better preplan for response in the event of a fire.



IV. Fire Hydrant Testing

IV. Fire Hydrant Testing

Status Quo

- Prior to this project, the NOFD would inspect every Sewerage and Water Board Fire Hydrant in the city twice a year. This inspection included a visual check and functional operation test of each hydrant.



IV. Fire Hydrant Testing

Scope

- Due to a change in insurance testing requirements, the NOFD changed the hydrant inspection and testing process to an annual, 21 point inspection of each hydrant and a flow testing of each hydrant, measuring the actual water flow produced, once every five years.



IV. Fire Hydrant Testing Improvement/Why It Matters

- While the NOFD is not responsible for fire hydrant maintenance, this project benefits the NOFD, the Sewerage and Water Board and the entire city. It ensures hydrants are functional for firefighting efforts when needed, provides identification of broken or damaged hydrants so that they may be quickly repaired, provides system-wide flow measurements for proper analysis and could help to lower homeowners' insurance in the city.



IV. Fire Safety Social Media Campaign

IV. Fire Safety Social Media Campaign

Status Quo

- Prior to this campaign, the NOFD had little to no social media presence.
- Social media accounts were not monitored or updated on a regular basis.
- Postings were limited and sporadic.
- Educational campaigns were promoted through the same established means: print and television media or direct to the public.
- Little information was issued to the public on department activities outside of press releases.



IV. Fire Safety Social Media Campaign

Scope

- The concept was to utilize NOFD Public Information Officers and the Photo Unit to promote educational campaigns through social media and to better inform the public on the day-to-day activities of the Fire Department.



IV. Fire Safety Social Media Campaign Improvement/Why It Matters

- Social media platforms have allowed the NOFD to inform the public directly about activities and fire education and connect with segments of the community unreached in the past.
- The NOFD has developed a small but steadily growing number of followers who often share critical information with others on social media.
- The New Orleans Fire Department currently has 3,744 Facebook followers and 1,427 Twitter Followers.

